The Daily and Weekly Commercial, when sent by mail, are published at the following rates, which are invariably adhered to, and no paper is sent from the Post-office—whether delivered by hand or mailed to another address—unless the subscription or not—is responsible for the payment.

1. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must send a definite order to that effect, and pay up all arrearages, or the publisher has a right to continue to send it, even if payment is made and the paper not taken from the office or not.

2. The Courts have decided that refusing or TAKE NOTICE newspapers or leaving them uncalled for, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud.

☞ REMITTANCES must be made in Money Orders, Bank Checks, or Drafts, if possible. When neither of these can be procured, send the Money in a Registered Letter. The present Registration system is virtually an absolute Protection. A small Letter by mail, and all Postmasters are obliged to register letters whenever requested to do so.

☞ No communications designed for publication should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscription, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Official Statement for November.

Increase During the Month $457,662.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 1.—Following is an abstract of the official statement of the public debt for the month of November:

Six per cent. bonds	$684,709,650
Five per cent. bonds	712,030,450
Total coin bonds	$1,396,740,100
Lawful money debt	14,000,000
Matured debt	2,210,700
Legal tenders	$356,876,907
Certificates of deposit	40,735,000
Fractional currency	27,468,588
Coin certificates	37,413,000
Total without interest	472,495,745
Total debt	$2,145,446,545
Total interest	33,550,260
Total debt and interest	$2,221,785,784
Cash in Treasury—coin	78,814,471
Cash in Treasury—currency	40,735,000
Special deposits held for redemption of certificates of deposit	40,735,000
Total in Treasury	132,349,686
Debt less cash in Treasury	$2,089,436,098
Increase of debt during November	457,662
Decrease of debt since 1 June 30th, '76	10,103,235
Bonds issued to Pacific Railroad Companies, interest payable in lawful money, principal outstanding	64,623,512
Interest accrued and not yet paid	1,619,582
Interest paid by United States	32,080,215
Interest repaid by transportation and services	6,960,225
Balance of interest paid by United States	25,089,890

NEBRASKA.

Another Desperate Democratic Dodge.

OMAHA, December 2.—Governor Garber has issued a call to the members of the last Legislature for an extra session of the Legislature at Lincoln, to meet December 5, for the purpose of canvassing the electoral vote. The Democrats are manuevering to carry the matter to the courts, as the law on the subject previous to the adoption of the new State Constitution and that of the new Constitution differ very materially. The former provides that the executive officers of the State shall count the votes, and the latter in the same manner as that for Congressmen by the Legislature. Great activity is exhibited among the leading politicians of both parties.

OMAHA, December 2.—The Democratic electors to-day presented a petition to Judge Savage, of the District Court, which prays that a perpetual injunction be granted to restrain the Republican electors from meeting and casting their votes for President. The petition states that Cobb, one of the republican electors, is ineligible, from the fact that he is a disbursing officer of the United States in the construction of the postoffice at Lincoln; allege that the Governor, Secretary of State and Attorney General conspired to evade and defeat the laws of the State, as they issued or caused to be issued to county clerks throughout the State advices of the Secretary of State thereon, to transmit therein to him statements of the number of votes cast; also allege that the Governor, to carry out said illegal design, has unlawfully notified said defendants, the Republican electors, that they were elected, and that he has certified to their election. The petition will come up for hearing in this case on Monday, December 4th, at four P. M. It is thought that a quorum will not answer the Governor's call for a special session of the Legislature, as many of the Senators are absent, and others cannot be reached in time. It is claimed that the Democrats will all stay away. The Senate is composed of Republicans 20, Democrats 8, Independents 2. The excitement is becoming great over this matter.

OMAHA, December 3.—The excitement over this movement of the Democrats yesterday, in petitioning for an injunction to restrain the Republican electors from casting the vote, is very great and increasing. The leaders of the Republicans relate that there is no danger, that the District Court of this county has no authority over electors, who are Federal officers acting under the laws of the United States. Efforts are to be made by the Republicans, if necessary, to carry the matter to the Supreme Court of the United States. The hearing is set for four o'clock to-morrow afternoon. The most powerful lawyers in the State are engaged on both sides. The Democrats, in their petition, admit that Hayes has over 184 votes. Strenuous efforts are being made by both parties in regard to the extra session of the Legislature, a vote for next Wednesday—the Republicans to have a quorum and the Democrats to prevent one being present.

A NEW PLAN.

Carl Schurz and Others Propose that the Counting of the Electoral Vote be Transferred to the Supreme Court of the *United States*—They Think a Constitutional Amendment Can *be Adopted* in Time to Apply to the Present Case.

ST. LOUIS, December 3.—Ex-Senator Carl Schurz, John B. Henderson and other prominent men of this city have formed a letter to the President of the United States Senate, relative to the counting of the electoral vote, with the request that he lay it before the Senate. They say that the present condition of the country calls for some action which will settle the political disquietude. The clause in the Constitution respecting the canvassing of the electoral vote is ambiguous and pronounced indefinite and liable to diverse construction. The attempt to canvass the vote in joint session of Congress is deprecated as certain to cause confusion, and may develop a strife which may prove most disastrous to the country. The letter then proposes as the remedy that the whole matter shall be transferred to the Supreme Court of the United States. It is urged that that is the only tribunal in which a fair and impartial consideration—by which will satisfy all the people—can be obtained. To effect this, the letter proposes that the two Houses shall improve the few weeks yet remaining before Christmas in framing and agreeing upon a constitutional amendment placing in the Supreme Court the duty of canvassing the electoral vote. The most of the State Legislatures meet immediately after the holidays, when the amendment could be submitted, and the letter holds to the opinion that the amendment would be ratified without delay, so that it could be made a part of the Constitution and apply to the present election. Both of the Presidential candidates, it is urged, would recognize the wisdom of this course, and both Republican and Democratic Legislatures would ratify it. The letter dwells at length on the wisdom of thus bringing important matter from a tribunal likely to be affected by partisan strife.

THE INDIAN WAR.

Official Report of Colonel Mackenzie on the Late Battle—The Events a Most Important One.

CHICAGO, December 1.—The official report of Colonel Mackenzie, Colonel of the Fourth Cavalry, was received at military headquarters here to-day. It states that about noon on the 24th inst., while marching in a southwesterly direction toward the Sioux pass of the Big Horn Mountains, five advanced scouts met him, reporting that the main camps of Cheyennes was about fifteen or twenty miles distant. About sunset the command began moving toward the hostiles, reaching the village early the following morning, completely surprising the Indians, and compelling them to vacate the village suddenly and take refuge in a ravine. After a brisk fight, lasting two hours and skirmishing till night, they captured the entire village, having 173 lodges, with all their contents, was destroyed, five hundred ponies captured, and twenty-five Indian lodges were found. It is almost certain that a much larger number were killed. Five soldiers and one officer were killed on our side and seventy-five wounded, besides one Shoshone scout belonging to us. Fifteen cavalry horses and four horses of Indian scouts were killed. The command moved to camp on Powder river, where this report was made, on the 25th inst. "Lieutenant McKenney, Fourth Cavalry, who was killed, was one of the most gallant of officers and honorable of men. General Crook, in transmitting the above report, says: I cannot commend too highly this brilliant achievement and the gallantry of the troops. This will be a terrible blow to the hostiles, as these Cheyennes were not only the bravest warriors, but have been the head and front of most of the raids and devilitry committed in this country.

RHODE ISLAND.

A Presidential Elector Chosen in Place of Mr. Corliss.

PROVIDENCE, December 1.—The General Assembly convened in special session to-day. Governor Lippett communicated the opinion of the Supreme Court that Corliss, Presidential elector elect, is ineligible by reason of being a member of the United States Centennial Commission. Hon. W. S. Slater was elected to fill the vacancy, receiving 81 votes to 19 for Charles R. Cutler, Democratic candidate.

VOL. XIV---NO. 5. WEEKLY EDITION. DECEMBER 9, 1876.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 1, 1876.

The Cabinet Meeting To-day

was of unusual duration. The entire session was occupied in discussing the situation at Columbia, South Carolina. Two telegrams were read from General Ruger, the one in which he explains the action of the military Tuesday last being given the press to-night for publication. The other referred to statements made by Senator Gordon and others, charging Ruger with making false statements to them, which Ruger most emphatically denies. In the latter dispatch Ruger asks for further instructions. Some of the members advocated instructing him to expel the eight members holding certificates from the Supreme Court. Others took the opposite view, contending that the Government had no right to interfere except to preserve the peace. During the session a telegram was read from Wade Hampton to the President, in which he says: "The Democratic members of the Lower House, sixty-five in number, met quietly in the hall to-day with their Speaker in the chair. The Republicans, fifty-nine, also assembled there, and placed their Speaker on a desk. General Ruger proposed to take out of the House eight members duly elected, holding certificates from the Supreme Court. The House is the sole judge of the qualifications of its members. We propose to leave the question to the House. These members will remain until expelled by force, but we earnestly desire a peaceful solution. The Legislature will not interfere with the Presidential electoral vote. We seek only a constitutional Legislature peaceably assembled for the good of the State." The President stated to your correspondent that he only desired to sustain the legally constituted authorities in South Carolina. He did not intend that the military should interfere except for this purpose, and to preserve the peace. If, after the Legislature canvassed the vote, it was found that Hampton was elected, he would sustain him.

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I have carefully abstained from interference with the organization of the House from the first. On the application of the Governor and my own belief for the necessity therefore I, on the forenoon of the day of peace, I placed troops in the State House, but not in the rooms of the Assembly of either of the Houses on the day of meeting. It came about that for a time the soldiers were placed on either side of the door of entrance to the Hall of Representatives under the following circumstances: A person at the door of the House, and who claimed authority to examine the certificates of those claiming seats as members, prior to their admission to the hall, but who, I think, had no legal authority for so doing, applied to the officer in command of the troops placed in the corridor for the preservation of the peace for assistance, on the ground that he was being pressed upon, and could not perform his duty. Soldiers were thereupon stationed, as I was fully informed of the circumstances, I ordered the soldiers withdrawn, as I had previously informed Governor Chamberlain I should, unless my action to the preservation of the peace, and should do nothing with reference to keeping the doors of the rooms of meeting of the Houses, or the rooms themselves, unless it became necessary because of a breach of the peace which the civil officers of the House should be unable to restore. No act was done by the soldiers except that of presence as stated; but whilst they were so present persons claiming the right of entrance under certificates of the Clerk of the Supreme Court were refused admission.

[Signed] THOMAS H. RUGER,
Commanding Department.

After the adjournment of the Cabinet, inquiry was made of members to ascertain the result of the deliberation, but they declined to make any communication. It is known, however, that additional instructions of an important character have been sent to General Ruger.

A dispatch from Columbia, dated six o'clock this evening, says: Everything remains unchanged. Both parties in the House are expecting Federal interference. General Ruger has done nothing as yet with regard to excluding the members from Edgefield and Laurens counties from the floor of the House. There can scarcely be a change before to-morrow.

APPOINTMENT.

The President has appointed A. T. Gibbins postmaster at Kanawha Court House, West Virginia.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 2, 1876.

A DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

was held to-night at the capitol, when Mr. Lamar, calling the members to order, said they had assembled to nominate a candidate for Speaker for the remainder of the present Congress, to supply the vacancy caused by the lamented death of Speaker Kerr, and to transact such other business as might be brought before them. Four candidates were suggested, namely: Sayler, Morrison, Randall and Cox. Mr. Clymer nominated Randall, and Scott Lord nominated Cox. Morrison withdrew before he was formally nominated, counselling harmony. Mr. Banning nominated Sayler, whereupon Sayler said he had already been honored by the Democratic members of the Lower House, sixty-five in number, met quietly in the hall to-day with their Speaker in the chair. The Republicans, fifty-nine, also assembled there, and placed their Speaker on a desk. General Ruger proposed to take out of the House eight members duly elected, holding certificates from the Supreme Court. The House is the sole judge of the qualifications of its members. We propose to leave the question to the House. These members will remain until expelled by force, but we earnestly desire a peaceful solution. The Legislature will not interfere with the Presidential electoral vote. We seek only a constitutional Legislature peaceably assembled for the good of the State." The President stated to your correspondent that he only desired to sustain the legally constituted authorities in South Carolina. He did not intend that the military should interfere except for this purpose, and to preserve the peace. If, after the Legislature canvassed the vote, it was found that Hampton was elected, he would sustain him.

The Speakership.

There is no reason to change the opinion of yesterday, that the contest for the Speakership is between Morrison and Randall, with the chances in favor of the latter. The announced candidacy of Hiester Clymer complicates the situation somewhat. Many say that he is promising nothing out of a majority of the Pennsylvania delegation. If he is and they mean to stand by him, it would seem to antagonize Randall's strength. There are those who say, however, that Clymer's candidacy is a part and parcel of the arrangement to elect Randall. There are a few in the Pennsylvania delegation who will refuse to support Mr. Randall, and it is intimated that Clymer's candidacy is intended to hold the opponents of Randall in the delegation away from Cox and Sayler. There is a report out that at a meeting in New York between Randall, Morrison and Governor Tilden, it was intimated that Randall was the latter's preference, and it is, moreover, alleged that Morrison was requested to make a canvass to prevent the election of either Cox or Sayler by drawing such strength to him as would not go naturally to Randall. Randall's apparent apathy in conducting his canvass is instanced as giving color to this report. He keeps himself quite shady at his house on Capitol Hill, does not seem to worry over the result, but yet is confident that he will succeed. On the other hand, Morrison continues to assure his friends that he is gaining strength daily. The entire Illinois delegation solid, expects the support of the majority of the Missouri delegation, and is reaching for the New England vote. When questioned as to the prospects of the several candidates, he has no false modesty, but says that either Randall or himself will be elected.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 3, 1876.

The Democratic Tactics.

A quorum of both Houses of Congress is in the city. Judging from the conversation of the members, there is not much prospect of the transaction of business. Several influential Representatives said the appropriation bills would not be passed till after the count of the electoral vote. This subject was informally talked amongst Democrats at the caucus last night and met with favor. The disposition of the Senate and House is, if possible, to dispose of the functions of the two Houses in the count of the electoral vote. In view of the necessity for protracted discussion, at this time it looks as if no business would be transacted at all, necessitating an extra session.

Conference of Republican Senators.

A number of Republican Senators tonight held an informal conference in reference to the elections in the Southern States, and the necessity of the appointment of committees to investigate the bulldozed States. The proposition meets with favor. As has already been stated, the House will at once appoint committees to visit South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana. It is very probable that committees from both Houses will be appointed off.

Arbitration of Political Questions.

The President stated in conversation with a friend that the subject of arbitration of the questions involved in the late elections, first intimated in these dispatches, has not yet received his attention, as his time has been occupied in preparing on his message. It is probable, as the proposition meets with favor, that action will now be speedily taken.

The New House.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives has received but ten certificates of election of members of the Forty-fifth Congress. It is stated that a list compiled from unofficial sources indicates a Democratic majority of eight.

Impeachment of President Grant Talked Of.

There is considerable talk amongst Democrats of trying the role of impeachment of the President, on grounds of illegal use of the military forces.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 3, 1876.

The Presidency Pro Tem. of the Senate.

A number of Republican Senators have had a conference with the President during the day and to-night on the subject of the Presidency *pro tem.* of the Senate. The importance of this question is keenly felt, and in view of the expiration of Mr. Ferry's term on the 4th of March, a new election will be had at a very early day. Messrs. Conkling and Morton are more prominently mentioned in this connection. The name of Mr. Hamlin is also mentioned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 1, 1876.

PENSION APPROPRIATIONS.

The House Committee on Appropriations met to-day and authorized Representative Atkins to report the annual Pensions Appropriation bill on the assembling of Congress, to confine it strictly to estimates calling for $20,531,000.

CABINET MEETING—AFFAIRS IN SOUTH CAROLINA DISCUSSED.

There was a full meeting of the Cabinet to-day, and the session continued more than three hours. The principal questions discussed related to events at the capital of South Carolina, based on a telegram received to-day from General Ruger, of which the following is an extract:

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ANNUAL MESSAGE

OF THE

President of the United States.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In submitting my eighth and last annual message to Congress, it seems proper that I should refer to it in some degree, recapitulate the events and official acts of the past eight years.

RETROSPECTION.

It was my fortune or misfortune to be called to the office of Chief Executive without any previous political training. From the age of seventeen, I had never even witnessed the excitement attending a Presidential campaign, but twice antecedent to my own candidacy, and at both one of them was I eligible as a voter. Under such circumstances, it is but reasonable to suppose that errors of judgment might have occurred even had there not, differences of opinion between the Executive, bound by an oath to the strict performance of his duties, and writers and debators must have arisen. It is not necessarily an evidence of a blunder on the part of the Executive, because there are these differences of view. Mistakes have been made, as all can see, and I admit; but it seems to me that even the selections made of the assistants appointed to aid in carrying out the various duties of administering the Government, in nearly every case selected without a person's acquaintance with the appointee, but upon recommendations of Representatives chosen directly by the people. It is impossible, where so many have to be selected, but that the right parties should be chosen in every instance. History shows that no Administration, from the time of Washington to the present, has been free from these mistakes; but I leave congratulations to my successor in the full belief that I have acted in every instance from a conscientious desire to do what was right, constitutional within the limit of my power and best interests of the whole people. Failures have been errors of judgment, not of intent.

"THE FIRE IN THE REAR."

My civil career commenced, too, at a most critical and difficult time. Less than four years before, the country had emerged from a conflict such as no other nation had ever survived. Early one part of the States had revolutionized, and the Government, instead of remaining faithful to the Union a large percentage of the population sympathized with the rebellion and made an enemy in the rear almost as dangerous as the more honorable enemy in front. The latter soon attracted the sympathies of interior, but they maintained them openly and courageously. The former never ceased their efforts to encompass the Government they would see destroyed, and reap all the pecuniary advantage to be gained out of the then existing state of affairs. Many of them by obtaining contracts and by swindling the Government out of moneys due on their goods. Immediately on the cessation of hostilities, the lamented President, who had carried the country safely through the perils of war, fell by the hand of an assassin. To him succeeded the Vice President, whose course was disapproved by the loyal people of the country. The airing of these differences in the Congress and before the people, during the pendency of the impeachment made more difficult by the considerable changes in the course of the lower part of the Rio Grande river, which river is a part of the boundary between the two countries. These changes have placed on either side of that river portions of land which, by existing conventions belong to the jurisdiction of the Government on the opposite side of the river. The subject of the adjustment of this cause of difficulty is under consideration between the two republics.

OUR CLAIMS AGAINST COLOMBIA SETTLED.

The Government of the United States of Colombia has paid the award in the case of the steamer Montijo, seized by the authorities of that Government some years since, and the amount has been transferred to the claimants.

MEXICAN CLAIMS.

It is with satisfaction that I am able to announce that the joint commission for the adjustment of claims between the United States and Mexico, under the convention of 1868, the duration of which has from time to time been extended, has brought its labors to a close. From the report of the agent of the United States, which accompanies the papers communicated herewith, it will be seen that within the time limited by the commission, one thousand and seventeen claims on the part of citizens of the United States against Mexico were received by the commission. Of these claims, eight hundred and thirty-one were dismissed or disallowed, and in one hundred and eighty-six cases awards in favor of the claimants against the Mexican Republic, amounting in the aggregate to four million one hundred and twenty-two dollars and twenty cents. Within the same period one hundred and ninety-four claims on the part of citizens of the Mexican Republic against the United States were presented to the commission. Of these claims eight hundred and thirty-one were disallowed or disallowed, and in one hundred and sixty-seven cases awards were made in favor of the claimants against the United States, amounting in the aggregate to one hundred and fifty thousand four hundred and ninety-eight dollars and forty-one cents. By the terms of the convention the amount of these awards is to be deducted from the amount awarded in favor of our citizens against Mexico, and the balance only to be paid by Mexico to the United States, leaving in the United States Treasury a sum sufficient to pay the awards in favor of its citizens, amounting in the aggregate to one hundred and fifty thousand four hundred and ninety-eight dollars and forty-one cents. By the terms of the convention the amount of these awards is to be deducted from the amount awarded in favor of our citizens against Mexico, and the balance only to be paid by Mexico to the United States, leaving in the United States Treasury a sum sufficient to pay the awards in favor of its citizens, amounting in the aggregate to four million one hundred and twenty-two thousand and twenty cents. Within the same period one hundred and ninety-four claims on the part of citizens of the Mexican Republic against the United States were presented to the commission. Of these claims eight hundred and thirty-one were disallowed or disallowed, and in one hundred and sixty-seven cases awards were made in favor of the claimants against the United States

XLIV. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5, 1876.

SENATE.

Mr. Morton submitted a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for the election of President and Vice President by the direct vote of the people, which was read and laid on the table until the appointment of the committees, and then to be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. In submitting the resolution, Mr. Morton said it was the identical proposition reported by the Committee on Privileges and Elections two years ago.

Mr. Wright presented a petition asking that Iowa be divided into two Judicial districts, Northern and Southern. Ordered to be referred to the Committee on Judiciary when appointed.

Mr. Morton presented a document compiled by the Chief Clerk of the Senate, in regard to counting the electoral votes from 1789 to 1873, and said the information it contained was of great importance, and valuable to the country at this time. He moved that 10,000 copies be printed for distribution.

Mr. Thurman said he had seen many inaccurate statements on this subject, prepared by others. He had great confidence in the ability of the Chief Clerk, but he would like to examine the compilation for himself before authorizing its distribution among the people.

It was finally agreed to print 1,500 copies, and the motion to print 8,500 copies will be referred to the Committee on Printing when appointed.

Mr. Spencer introduced a bill to establish the Territory of Black Hills and provide a temporary government therefor. Laid on the table until the committees be appointed.

Mr. Edmunds moved to take up the resolution submitted by him yesterday, ordering an inquiry into the late elections in various Southern States. After a long debate the motion was agreed to, yeas 39, nays 22, a strict party vote.

Mr. Edmunds then modified his resolution so as to authorize the committee to extend the inquiry to the elections of 1874 in the States named.

On motion of Mr. Conkling, the resolution was laid aside for the present, and the message of the President was read. It was ordered that it be printed, with the accompanying documents, and the usual motion to print extra copies was entered, to be hereafter referred to the Committee on Printing.

Mr. Hill here submitted a resolution requesting the President to inform the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, under what authority and for what purpose troops of the United States were compelled the city of Petersburg, Va., on the 7th day of November, 1876 (the day of the election).

Objection was made by Mr. Edmunds, and the resolution was laid over.

Mr. Thurman suggested that the resolution of the Senator from Vermont in regard to the various documents be laid over until to-morrow, and be printed with the changes made.

Mr. Edmunds said he could not consent to it going over. He felt it to be his duty to ask the Senate to act upon it to day.

Mr. Thurman said the Senator from Vermont had agreed that the adoption of this resolution would not commit the Senate to any particular doctrines or dogma. He [Thurman] denied this, and argued that it did commit the Senate. He contended that there had been no violation of the Constitution of the United States by any of the States named in the resolution. The States gave suffrage to everybody, and nothing in the Constitution of either of them stood in any of their statutes to unload suffrage. Under recent amendments to the Constitution those States could have prescribed property or educational qualifications to exclude the colored man from the ballot-box, but did not do so. It was said that this inquiry could be set on foot. It was entirely outside of the Constitution, and was based alone upon newspaper articles.

Mr. Edmunds said the laws and statutes of several of these States did operate to deny suffrage.

Mr. Thurman denied that there was any such law in either of the States, and the Senator [Edmunds] could not produce any such statute. The laws of those States acted alike on both white and colored voters. Who had had possession of South Carolina and Louisiana since the days of Republican party. Who had possession of Alabama until within the last two years? The Republican party. Yet it was claimed that the right of suffrage had never had been abridged. The intent of this resolution was simply to go into the question of intimidation, and furnish a satisfactory reason for Returning Boards throwing out votes and electing other men than those chosen by the people. Six States were involved in this resolution. Why did not the Republican Party cannvass extend it everywhere? Had he never heard of the employees in great manufactories being marched up to the polls and made to vote as their employers, who stood at the window, dictated?

Mr. Edmunds—I never heard of but one instance of that kind, and that was the case of a Democratic manufacturer in Ohio, which made his employees vote the Democratic ticket.

Mr. Thurman—Then the Senator is the most ignorant man who lives in New England. [Laughter.] Resuming his argument, Mr. Thurman said the Committee on Privileges and Elections was composed of nine members, and it was impossible for that committee, sitting in Washington, to make the investigation and report by February 22. The proposition to take depositions, but who was to be served with notice to cross-examine? As to the last resolution in regard to the eligibility of electors, he [Thurman] was not sure but that he could support it, but he desired more time to study it. If the returning boards in the South had good cause to throw out votes and override the will of the people, he wanted it to be shown; and if it could not be shown, he wanted their villainy to be exposed. He wanted the facts to be known.

Mr. Edmunds, in reply to a question of Mr. Thurman, said he would not inform the Senator from Ohio to which States he had abridged the right of suffrage by statute, inasmuch as he [Edmunds] had been set down as the most ignorant man in New England. If [Mr. Thurman], the most learned man in Ohio, would study the Constitution and laws of the United States, he would find out some thing to his advantage. Mr. Edmunds further replying to Mr. Thurman, argued that the artisans and operatives of New England were men of intelligence, men of duration, of property, of independence, of self-respect; and it was even more than very hardy man indeed who ever ventured to suggest to his employees how they should exercise the right of suffrage. The artisans and operatives of New England were men who built churches and school houses, and sometimes carried their knowledge, energy and industry to the Western country, even to Ohio. [Laughter.] He argued that the whole object of his resolution was to correct an evil and to the representation in the House of Representatives. It had nothing to do with the Presidential election.

Mr. Morton said the preamble of the resolution recited the provision of the fourteenth amendment. If the preamble could be cut off, no one would deny the power of the Senate to make the inquiry. A like resolution had been adopted by the House of Representatives yesterday, and argued that if it was legitimate for the democratic House of Representatives to take such an inquiry, it certainly was competent for a Republican Senate to do the same thing.

Mr. Bayard said for many years past he believed that the peace of the country and the tranquility which the Constitution the United States was intended to protect, had all been threatened by laws passed by the Congress of the United States. He argued that Congress had no right to undertake the control of the several States. He had come to this session of Congress more seriously impressed with the overshadowing presence of dangers to our form of government than ever before, and had come convinced that it was his duty to oppose, successfully if he could, these unconsolidated march which the Republican party had set on foot. He proposed stand by the strict construction of the constitution, and denied that any of the Southern States there had been discrimination against voters on account of race or color by any law or statute of such States. ere was coming to be established to this country a time when their love of law would be tested, and he proposed to stand upon it law and let the consequences take care of themselves. The duty of Senators and as party men, as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans, to do all in their power to uphold the Constitution as handed down to us by our fathers, and not to undertake the settlement of questions not confided to the Senate or Congress by the Constitution.

On motion of Mr. Whyte, it was ordered that the resolutions of Mr. Edmunds be referred upon separately. He said he would examine the first three resolutions, before entering the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in construing the Fourteenth amendment. In regard to the recent election in some of the States, he was in favor of immediate and prompt action, and he proposed to offer a substitute for the last resolution, which would cause a thorough scrutiny of the election in those States.

Mr. Merrimon submitted an amendment the first resolution, providing that the committee shall be confined to an inquiry whether the right of suffrage in the late election denied or abridged by the Constitution or laws of said States. Rejected, yeas 28, nays 30, a strict party vote.

Mr. Bogy moved to strike out the preamble. Rejected.

Mr. McDonald moved to strike out the first part of the preamble relating to the fifteenth amendment. Rejected, yeas 29, nays 40.

The first resolution, authorizing the committee to inquire into the elections in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana for the years 1-76 and 76, &c., was then agreed to, yeas 38, nays 25, a party vote.

The second resolution, authorizing the employment of stenographers and empowering the committee to send for persons and papers, &c., was agreed to without a division.

The third resolution, in regard to depositions, was also agreed.

Mr. Whyte then submitted the following substitute for the resolutions of Mr. Edmunds:

Resolved, That a select committee of seven members of the Senate be appointed to investigate the recent elections in the States of South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, and the action of the returning boards in said States in reference thereto, and to report all the facts essential to an honest return of the votes received by the electors for said States for President and Vice President of the United States, and whether said States are entitled to be considered in the count of the electoral votes of the States, and for the speedy execution of this purpose the said committee shall have power to send for persons and papers, to administer oaths, to take testimony, and at their discretion to detail sub-committees with like authority to send for persons and papers, to administer oaths and to take testimony, and said committee and sub-committees are empowered to employ stenographers, clerks and messengers, and shall be attended by a deputy sergeant-at-arms; that said committee be and is hereby instructed to inquire into the eligibility to office under the Constitution of the United States of any persons alleged to have been ineligible on the 7th day of November last, or to be ineligible as electors of President and Vice President of the United States, to whom certificates of election have been or shall be issued by the executive authority of any State as such electors, and whether any appointment of electors or votes claiming to be such in any of the States has been made either by force, fraud or other means otherwise than in conformity with the Constitution and laws of the United States and the laws of the respective States, and whether any such appointment or election of any such elector has been in any way unconstitutionally or unlawfully interfered with.

After some discussion the substitute was rejected without division.

The question then came on the last resolution of Mr. Edmunds in regard to the eligibility of electors, it was agreed to, yeas 48, nays 11, Messrs. Cockrell, McDonald, Randolph, Ransom and Walker voting with the Republicans in the affirmative.

The preamble was then agreed to.

Mr. Edmunds gave notice that he would move to take up to-morrow the joint resolution respecting the method of counting and deciding the electoral vote for President and Vice President of the United States, reported by the Committee on Privileges and Elections in May last. He also gave notice of an amendment he would offer, and it was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Merrimon introduced a bill to alter the times prescribed for holding elections for President and Vice President and members of Congress in the electoral college. Ordered printed and to be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections when appointed. It provides that the Republican Presidential and Vice Presidential election for President and Vice President shall be held in October, and the electoral college shall meet in January following.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Immediately after the reading of the journal, Mr. Plaisted, arising to a privileged question, announced the death of Mr. Yesterday evening on Mr. Hewitt's resolution for three select committees for Louisiana, Florida and South Carolina, he had stated that he would appoint the gentlemen subsequently heard his name so read by the clerk; but he now found he was not so recorded in the journal.

In answer to the suggestion of his vote would have defeated the resolution, as the two-thirds majority would have only then gained by a tie of 155 to 78, any change of vote which might even subsequently be entered at the request of Democrats.

It was contended, on the other hand, by Messrs. Banks, Kasson and other Republicans, that it was the right of every member to have his name properly recorded in the journal, and that if that were done and changed the result, that consequence had to follow.

Mr. Plaisted's assurance that he had voted in the negative, was confirmed by the statement of Mr. Bailey, of New Hampshire, that an explanation, however, that the answer did not come promptly on the call of his name, but just as the next name of the roll was called or about being so, the error having occurred, a possibility of the error having occurred in that way, but it was positively asserted by Mr. Plaisted that he had subsequently listened with great care to the rightness of the vote, and had heard his name called in the list of negatives.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Sosley expressed his surprise and indignation at any objection being raised as to the veracity of the member. He himself had voted in the affirmative, but he would not allow by any action of his to be put in question to be attained by unrighteous means.

Mr. Kasson sent to the Clerk's desk and had read an extract from the House journal of 1849, bearing on the case, and showing that where a bill had been passed on Saturday, the journal had been corrected the following Monday and the bill had been defeated.

Mr. Holman asserted, to the great amusement of the Republican side, that there was no possible parallel between the two cases.

The Speaker—The judgment of the Chair is very clear on the point, that the object of the record is to have a true record, and therefore the Speaker believes that a motion to correct the journal is in order, and rules that the vote must be recorded.

The triumph of the Democratic side of the house was but momentary, for immediately Mr. Fuller rose on the Democratic side and said he had yesterday voted in the affirmative on the last resolution, and had afterwards came down to the Clerk's desk and ascertained that he had been so recorded, but now found his vote did not appear on the journal. The error thereby was confirmed by Mr. Hill, and the journal was again corrected.

The Speaker then stated that if the vote had been correctly stated yesterday, it would have stood 157 to 79, and the Speaker would then (exercising his constitutional right) have voted in the affirmative, thus carrying the resolution. He proposed as a solution of the difficulty that the vote should be again taken.

To this proposition there was a general assent by Republicans, the only exception being on the part of Mr. Banks, who objected, but immediately withdrew the objection.

At the same time the Speaker changed his view, and announced that he would now exercise his right to vote. He supposed the gentleman from Massachusetts [Banks] would admit his right to do so.

Mr. Banks—I do. There can be no doubt about it.

The Speaker—Then I exercise that right, and cast my vote in the affirmative. [Loud applause on the Democratic side, and corresponding depression on the Republican side.]

Mr. Conger—Not another Republican agrees with the gentleman from Massachusetts [Banks], or with the Chair—not one.

The Speaker—The Chair is very sorry to disagree with the gentleman from Michigan. [Laughter.]

Mr. Conger—I think the Chair is not sorry to disagree with me in this matter.

The Speaker—The Chair does not think any action of the Chair to-day warrants the reflection which the gentleman has made, either on its motives or decisions.

Mr. Conger—The Chair will permit me to say that the difficulty that a new vote be taken. I rose in my place, after consultation with those around me, and on behalf of this side of the House asserted that proposition. Immediately thereupon the Chair took another course, and made a new ruling in favor of his partisan side. I therefore made the remark which I did, and was justified in it.

The Speaker—The Chair desires to say that as matter of fact, all its decisions today have been on the side of Democracy, and he was therefore greatly surprised to hear a gentleman from that side reflecting on him. The Chair stands in all frankness that after making the proposition which he did, he was reminded that he had a constitutional right which he might exercise, and having that right, he did exercise it.

Mr. Conger—That is the very thing of which I complain. [Laughter.]

The question of the journal matter, therefore, is that the resolution for the appointment of three committees remains in force.

Mr. Hamilton, of Indiana, then offered his resolution assigning Saturday, the 16th, for the presentation of suitable resolutions on the death of the late Speaker Kerr, and the appointment by members of a committee in which he was held for his unblemished character and eminent public services. Adopted.

The Speaker then announced the President's annual message, which was thereupon read by the Clerk.

On motion of Mr. Wood, of New York, the message and accompanying documents were ordered printed forthwith in pamphlet form, and were referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

The Speaker announced the following select committees: On Louisiana—Messrs. Morrison, Jenks, McMahon, Lynde, Black, King, Meade, Hoskins, Phelps, New, Ross, Townsend, of Pennsylvania, Danford, Hurlbut, of Illinois, Crapo and Joyce. On Florida—Messrs. Thompson, Beach, Cook, Hamilton, of Illinois, and Dunnell. On the South Carolina committee the name of Mr. Cochran was substituted for that of Mr. Stenger, excused on account of illness in his family.

Mr. Lawrence asked leave to offer a resolution designed to secure equal school privileges to white and colored children, but objection was made, and the House adjourned.

OREGON.

The Question as to the Ineligibility of Watts.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 5.—A Portland press dispatch states that the argument in the Watts case was opened at Salem this morning before Governor Grover, upon the protest filed by Senator Kelly and others against the issuance of a certificate to the alleged disqualified elector. Mr. Odell, one of the Republican electors, said the electors did not wish to argue the case, but would file a counter protest. Mr. Kelly then read the protest filed by him December 2d, with accompanying affidavits. Mr. Odell read a long counter protest, setting forth the facts and law applicable to the case for the Republican electors. Kelly then argued the issue at length, taking the ground that Watts was ineligible to the office of the election, and that the person receiving the next highest number of votes was entitled to the certificate. He cited to either Watts or Cronin. Interest is centered on the action of the Governor.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 6, 1876.

Oregon Votes for Hayes.

Dispatches received here from Portland, Oregon, say that the electors-at-large, Watts, the ineligible elector, failing to appear, proceeded to fill the vacancy under the following provision of the State law in regard to electors: If there shall be any vacancy in the office of elector occasioned by death, refusal to act, neglect to attend or other wise, the electors present shall immediately proceed to fill by *viva voce* and plurality of votes such vacancy.

General Garfield on Louisiana Bulldozing.

General Garfield, in speaking of his visit to New Orleans, says in regard to the outrages committed upon Republicans in the South, that he at one time believed with many others in the North that the accounts were very much exaggerated; but now is convinced that but a fraction of the truth is known. He says that the action of the Returning Board will stand the strictest scrutiny, and the Republicans can go before the country with perfect confidence that they will be sustained.

The Vindictiveness of the House Democrats.

The action of the House, in tabling the message of the President and accompanying letter of Senator Sherman, was not unexpected by the Republicans. The manner in which it was done, and the unrebuked rounds of applause from Democrats which greeted Scott and Wood, of New York, were but a faint outburst of the vindictive spirit which actuates the Democratic majority, and which will, judging from their threats, assume a more serious form before the election complications are over. Republicans are satisfied that the letter has been put upon the record, and consider the action of the President as a sagacious move. Senator Sherman's review in the Senate on the situation in Louisiana, and the action of the Returning Board, will be a masterly effort, and was listened to with marked attention, even by Democrats. He said to-night that he was satisfied to rest the Louisiana case with the people; that amid the present excitement and even personal danger, the Returning Board of Louisiana acted with a fairness and discretion hardly to be expected under the circumstances.

The House Whitewash Committees.

The special House committees to investigate the elections in South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana met to-day, organized and laid out a programme. They will meet to-night, when the first two witnesses will be examined to-morrow. It is proposed to make investigation of the action of the returning boards, and to take testimony in the two indicted cases. It is expected that the committees will be absent six weeks.

Arrivals of Pennsylvanians.

Governor Hartranft, Secretary of State Quay, Surveyor of the Port Rutan and A. B. Boger, elector from the Beaver district, arrived here to-night to look over the situation. Wallace, brother of Senator Cameron, one of the electors, and chosen as bearer of the vote of the electoral college of Pennsylvania, is expected here with the vote on Friday.

DePALM CREMATION.

"A Complete, a Scientific, a Civilized and a Christian Cremation" of the Dead Nobleman.

TIME, TWO HOURS AND TWENTY-SEVEN MINUTES.

SCENES AT THE CREMATORY.

The De Palm cremation was consummated Wednesday, at Little Washington. It was done, according to one of the speakers at the post-cremation meeting, "with all the requisites for a complete, a scientific, a civilized and a Christian cremation."

The time fixed upon for placing the body of Baron de Palm in the retort was half past eight o'clock, and long before that hour the little building on "Gallows Hill," which has been named "American Crematory," was surrounded by an eager anxious throng, in which were a score or more of representatives of the press of Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Chicago, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Boston and other cities. Presently Colonel Olcott, one of the executors of the deceased Baron, accompanied by other members of the Theosophical Society, arrived, when the door of Reception Hall, a small apartment adjoining that in which the furnace is located, was thrown open. The few representatives of Health Boards and other scientific gentlemen who were present, were ushered into the little hall, closely followed by several of the large reportorial gang, and when all were inside the door was closed and locked, to the great disgust of several hundred persons who had for several hours been stamping the frozen ground in the hope of obtaining a view of the corpse, the furnace and other sights within the building.

THE CREMATORY.

An accurate description of the crematory is given by Mr. Nicholas Wade, a son-in-law of Dr. Le Moyne, under whose direction the furnace was constructed, and it is not necessary to repeat it here. Below is presented a cut representing the apartment in which is located the cremating apparatus:

The engraving shows the front of the furnace and retort, together with the crib in which the body was placed preparatory to sliding it into the retort. The crib was so constructed as to raise the body some two inches from the floor of the furnace, thus affording a draft of air underneath and rendering the combustion more perfect than it is in the case of the sheep that were burned some weeks ago.

THE REMAINS OF THE BARON,

which had been lifted from the silver-mounted coffin, in which they arrived, enveloped in linen and placed in the crib, were carefully inspected by the scientists and the reporters until the hour for the beginning of the burning arrived. The skin was of a dark, leathery hue, and the corpse was completely plastered over with potter's clay saturated with carbolic acid and the sycophantic members of the Theosophical Society extract all the juices of the body. Leathery and dark as the Baron looked, however, it was easy to see the likeness to his photograph, as handed around by Colonel Olcott, which represented a fine-featured, grizzly-haired old German gentleman.

INTO THE FIERY FURNACE.

Colonel Olcott, a short time before consigning the body to the retort, strewed upon it myrrh, frankincense, cassia and spices. It was then ornamented with pos blossoms, callow leaves, immortelles, primroses, smilax and a sprig of mignonette, all indicative of the immortality of the soul. The urn destined to receive the ashes was then placed upon the top of the furnace, just above the retort.

At twenty-seven minutes after eight, the audience taking off their hats, four gentlemen, Colonel Olcott, Mr. Newton, Dr. LeMoyne and Dr. Asdale, took hold of the corners of the crib. The crowd being cleared, the body was then taken from the reception room and slid into the furnace. A rush of smoke from the consuming flower, a whiff of odor from the spices, and the doors were shut down and the cremation began.

Within twenty minutes an inspection of the body was made through a sight hole in the door of the retort, showing that the skull had fallen to one side, and the bones of the skeleton began to show. The body had not yet fallen apart, the evergreens being still visible in good preservation. At nine o'clock the ribs showed plainly. The small blower in front of the furnace was kept in motion, increasing the power of the flames and thus intensifying the heat. At half-past nine no vestige of the flowers remained. The inclosing sheet still retained its form, preserved by an asbestos solution in which it had been dipped. At 10:20 the right side of the skeleton had fallen in, but the ribs of the left side stood up from the backbone. At eleven o'clock the backbone, a few ribs and the bones of one hand alone were visible, the head having fallen back out of sight. At half past eleven the hand had fallen. At twelve the ribs were scarcely visible. The medical gentleman made an examination at eleven o'clock, and pronounced the incineration completed at that time. A jar of the poker against the crib completed the crumbling of the remains, which suddenly fell down to the bottom of the retort, leaving the bars of the crib visible in every part. The twigs of spruce on the body alone retained their form to the last. The doctors present were LeMoyne, Asdale, Otterson, Clemmer and Folsom.

The time occupied in the cremation was two hours and twenty-seven minutes. The ashes will not be taken out of the furnace till it cools, when Colonel Olcott will inurn them without ceremony. They will not probably be taken out till Saturday.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 6, 1876.

A statement supplemental to the report of the Comptroller of the Currency has just been published, showing the amount of issue and retirement of national bank notes, the amount by States of national bank circulation and the amount of legal tenders deposited to retire national bank circulation up to December 1. The annual report of the Comptroller only brings these statistics down to November 1. The following is the supplemental report:

Issue and Retirement of National Bank Notes and Legal Tender Notes Under the Acts of June 20, 1874, and January 14, 1875, to December 1, 1876;

National bank notes outstanding when act of June 20, 1874, was passed	$350,894,182
National bank notes issued from June 20, 1874, to January 14, 1875	4,734,509
National bank notes redeemed and retired between same dates	2,767,252
Increase from June 20, 1874, to January 14, 1875	1,967,256
National bank notes outstanding January 14, 1875	352,861,450
National bank notes issued from January 14, 1875, to date	43,978,148
National bank notes redeemed between same dates	7,888,731
Total redeemed and surrendered	351,063,879
National bank notes issued between same dates	18,861,259
Decrease from January 14, 1875, to date	32,202,629
National bank notes outstanding at date	319,658,821

Greenbacks on deposit in the Treasury June 1, 1875, for redemption of insolvent and liquidating banks..$ 3,813,675
Greenbacks deposited from June 20, 1874, to date, to retire national bank notes | 62,374,389
Total deposits | 66,188,064
Greenbacks redeemed by Treasurer between same dates without reissue | 46,745,380
Greenbacks on deposit at date | 19,442,684
Greenbacks withdrawn: act of January 14, 1875 | 15,000,000
Greenbacks outstanding at date | 260,911,000

JOHN JAY KNOX,
Comptroller of the Currency.

—The New York *Journal of Commerce* records a rather interesting decision under the usury laws of New York as follows:

In the case of Littauer against Goldman, the decision of the Supreme Court, special term, that the innocent purchaser from the owner of a note void for usury could recover back the money paid, upon the ground of breach of implied warranty that the note was a legal and valid one, has just been affirmed in general term. The opinion, by Mr. Justice Sedgwick, is to the effect that this case was absolutely void by statute. The fact that rendered it void existed prior to and at the time of the sale. There was no express representation by defendant, but we think, under the authorities both in this country and England, there is an implied warranty that the note was a valid, binding instrument. Mr. Justice Sedgwick says: The plaintiff's claim is founded upon a second mortgage for $750 000. The whole amount of this second mortgage is cut off and is lost, as is also a quarter of a million of the first mortgage. The purchase is understood to be for account of a committee of the first mortgage holders. The price is consid red low, though the work was never finished in such a way as to be of much use to the city of Wilmington, Delaware, to the city of Reading, Pennsylvania, passing to the west of Philadelphia, through a rural district devoted to farms.

The Philadelphia bank statement of averages for the past week, as compared with that of the previous week, shows an increase in loans of $372,407, in specie of $48,884, in due from banks of $92,677, and in due to banks of $103,500. The reserve decreased $730,041, national bank notes $156,899, deposits $380,319, and circulation $20,035. The increase in loans is no doubt satisfactory to the banks, and the large increase in deposits and in legal reserve is probably accounted for in the movement of currency to the West. The decrease in circulation shows a healthy condition of that specie. The business movement at bank was again reduced, though not so largely as during the previous week. The clearings were lower by $567,236, and the balances by $789,569. There is nothing in the financial situation here that indicates any material change in the money market.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

December 6, 1876.	10:30 A. M.	11:00 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	108¾	108¾	108¾	108¾	108¾	108¾
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup	116½	116½			116½	
U. S. 6's, 1881, new	116½	116½			116½	
U. S. 5-20's registered	110½	110½			110½	
U. S. 5-20's, 1867, coupon	114½	114½			114½	
U. S. 5-20's, 1865, coupon	114½	114½			114½	
U. S. 5-20's, 1868	116	116			116	
U. S. 10-40's, coupon	114	114			114	
U. S. 10-40's, registered	113	113			113	
New 4½ per cents	111	111			111	
Western Union Tel	72¾	72¾	73	73	73	73
Pacific Mail	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾
New York Central						
Adams Express	95					
Wells, Fargo & Co	90					
American Express	60½					
Erie	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Erie preferred	19¾	19¾	19¾	19¾	19¾	19¾
Harlem	138					
Do. preferred	133					
Michigan Central	90					
Panama	120					
Lake Shore	69¾	69¾	69¾	69¾	69¾	69¾
Illinois Central	93¾					
Cleve. and Pitts	88¾					
Northwestern	36¾	36¾	36¾	36¾	36¾	36¾
Do. preferred	59½					
C., C., & I	30					
N. J. Central	39¾					

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	116½	New 5's	111
U. S. 5's, 1881	116½	Missouri 6's	100
5-20's, 1865, new	112¾	10-40's, registered	112¾
5-20's, 1867	115¾	10-40's, coupons	112¾
5-20's, 1868	115¾	Currency 6's	120½

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old	43¾	Virginia, old	29
Tennessee, new	43¾	Missouri 6's	103¼
Virginia, new	29		

LONDON, December 6, 5 P. M.—The amount of bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balance to day is £215,000, all for the United States. Consols 93 11 16. United States bonds—5-20's, 1864, do. 1867, 105¾; 10-40's 107½; new 5's, 105¾. Railroad securities—New York Central 96; Erie 9; do. preferred 16.

PARIS, December 6.—Rentes 104 francs 37½ centimes.

FRANKFORT, December 6.—United States bonds—New 5's 101¼.

NEW ORLEANS, December 6.—Gold 108½ @108¾. Sight exchange on New York ¼ per cent. discount. Sterling exchange 519½.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, December 6, 1876.

Business was somewhat improved in activity to-day, but not withstanding that, the volume of the day's transactions was rather small and on the whole trade was rather dull. The general range of market values is steady, the most important alterations in our quotations which we make to-day being advances in wheat, oats and rye. The produce market is generally unchanged and very dull. Provisions are also very quiet at unchanged rates. Groceries are only moderately active and sell at unchanged rates with a notable firmness in coffee, and some weakness in molasses. Dry goods move with a fair degree of freedom for the season, without change in prices. In other branches of wholesale trade the market was steady and unchanged.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since our last are as follows:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	9,208	7,337	16,565
Apples, bbls	2,447	737	3,184
Cheese, box	1,368	501	2,069
Corn, bus	9,837	4,696	14,533
Wheat, bus	5,173	7,422	12,595
Barley, bus	1,596	6,905	8,815
Rye, bus	2,710	3,580	6,290
Oats, bus	16,915	17,243	34,158
Butter, pkgs	440	2,215	2,655
Bacon, pcs	5,091	20,475	25,567
Bacon, lbs	425	113	538
Potatoes, bus	8,139	6,106	14,245
Hay, bales	1,327	1,182	2,509

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. In small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—The market is active and firm under light receipts and a fair demand. Wheat is in better request at higher prices, and the supply is light. We quote prime Ohio and Pennsylvania red at 1 30@1 35 per bushel; amber at 1 30@1 38; white at 1 38@1 40. Corn is quiet but firm. We quote shelled at 55@56c for prime yellow; 57@58c for high mixed; 55@56c for low-mixed; new ear corn is steady at 50@52c per bushel. Oats are firmer and a shade higher. We note sales of 2 cars prime white at 40c. We quote prime white at 39@40c per bushel; mixed 37@38c. Rye is in fair supply and firmer at 76@77c. Barley is quiet and continues dull. We quote 75@80c for two-rowed; new spring prime fall at 1 00@1 10. Jobbing sales are made at the following prices:

FLOUR—The market is firm with an upward tendency. Local millers quote their wholesale prices as follows: Family, $5 75@6 25 per bbl; fancy St. Louis $ 50@6 00; choice patents $ 50@6 00; Graham flour $5 50@5 75; cornmeal, $3 75@4 00; buckwheat, $6 75 per barrel; rye, $5 75; rye flour $4 25@4 50 per barrel.

HAY—Is in fair supply and steady. We quote loose from wagons at 1 00@16 00 per ton. Baled from first hands $11 00@14 00 as to quality and position. From store the usual advance is obtained.

MILL FEED—Remains quiet. The rates current are: Fine feed, $ ton; middlings, $20 00@22 00; seconds and ship-stuffs $15 00@17 00; crushed feed $20 00@22 00.

Country Produce.

APPLES—The receipts were considerably decreased, being but 737 barrels for the past week. The market is quiet and steady for good demand, and prices remain easy at former prices. We quote prices in a jobbing way at $ 00@1 50 per barrel.

APPLE BUTTER—Is dull and nominal at 30@3c per gallon.

BEANS—Is in fair demand at 3 00@3c per bushel.

BRANS—The demand is active and the market is firm with an upward tendency. We quote prime white navy at $1 75@2 00 per bushel.

APPLE BUTTER—Is dull and nominal at 30@3c per gallon.

BROOM-CORN—The supply is large with a moderate demand for small lots, and the market is rather easy. We quote choice hurl at 6 @7c, as to quality; brush that will work up into 2 inch stock at 4@4½c; red-tipped 3@3½c; inferior not wanted at any price; crooke i in fair demand and about 33 per cent. off from the prices given, according to quality.

BUTTER—Receipts of choice are lightand glt-edged, and the market is firm at full prices. Common stock is in large supply and dull. Quotations remain unchanged. Creamery is selling at 28@30c. We quote prime to choice solid packed 18@19c; do roll 20@22c; choice, 23@25c; fancy, 26@28c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Is rather active and steady. We quote at $3 75@4 00 per cwt. for prime quality.

CHEESE—The demand is fairly active and the market is firm. We quote full cream factory and September Ohio factory at 14c in round lots; jobbing at 14½@15c. New York Goshen 15c in round lots; 15½@16c in jobbing way. 9¾

CRANBERRIES—Are in moderate supply and the market is steady. Prices range at $8 00@9 00 per barrel; $3 00@3 50 in bushels.

EGGS—The demand is fair and supply light. We quote at 30@32c per dozen, packages included, for common; 34 00@35 00 for extra choice.

DRIED FRUIT—The market is dull and nominal at weak prices. We quote dried apples nominally at 5@5½c per pound for prime, and 3½@4c for fancy; dried peaches 9@11c.

EGGS—Fresh are in good demand and firm, while packers are strong. Strictly fresh are quoted at 29@27c $ dozen; pickled are in large supply and dull at 20@22c.

FEATHERS—Choice are quoted at 60@65c in wholesale lots; lower qualities 50@55c.

GAME—The supply is light and prices are steady. We quote: Quails $2 00 per dozen. Pheasants $3 00 per dozen. Prairie fowl $4 50 per dozen. Rabbits 75c per dozen.

HONEY—We can report a fair trade demand for new California at 22@23c $ lb; domestic 20c $ lb.

NUTS—Are in good supply and the market is easy. We quote: Chestnuts, $4 00@4 50 per bushel; walnuts 50c $ bushel; hickory nuts $1 00 $ bushel; shellbarks $1 50@1 75.

ONIONS—Are in fair supply and steady at 1 00@1 25 per barrel.

POULTRY—The supply is large and the market quiet and weak. We quote: Live chickens by the coop at 35@40c $ pair; dressed 12@13c $ lb. Live turkeys 7½@8c $ lb; dressed 9@10c $ lb. Live ducks 75@80c per pair; dressed 12@14c $ lb. Geese 10c $ lb.

POTATOES—Receipts are moderate and the market is steady at former prices with an upward tendency. Quotations on track were nominal at 90@95c for Early Rose peachblows. Business from store is steady and unchanged at 90@95c $ bu for prime peachblows; lower grades are dull and unchanged at 60@70c $ bu; Jersey sweets $4 50@5 00; Burbanks $3 50@4 00 $ bbl.

VINEGAR—There is a moderate demand at 16@18c $ gallon for prime country stock; 14@15c for best city make.

Provisions.

The trade in the leading articles of hog products continues rather slow, the new make not having got fairly into market yet, and buyers restricting their purchases to immediate wants until that does take place. Prices continue steady and unchanged. Receipts are light, being 20,475 pieces and 115 tes for the week.

BACON—The market is steady. Jobbing quotations are as follows: Sugar-cured shoulders at 10c $ lb; do. clear ribs 10½c; clear sides 10½c.

LUT AND CURED MEATS—Hams were quiet at 11c $ lb for sugar-cured canvassed. Clear fat bacon rules easy and we quote sugar-cured at 10½c. Sugar-cured shoulders were steady at 9½@9¾c. Dried beef, smoked, was firm at 10½c. Beef tongues, $ dozen, are quiet at $ 00@ 00.

LARD—Demand fair and market steady. We quote refined lard in tierces 10¾c $ lb; in half barrels 11¾c $ lb; in 5 caddies 11¾ $ lb; in 3 caddies 12c $ lb; in 1 caddie 12¼c $ lb; in pails 12¾c $ lb. Leaf lard rules at 11c in tierces.

LARD OIL—The market is quiet. We quote best table oil at 85c; No. 1 at 75c $ gallon; No. 2 at 60c; miners' oil, white winter, 50@60c; yellow winter, 45@50c.

MESS PORK—Continues steady at $17 50 $ barrel.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers', city rendered, at 9@9½c $ lb; country do 7½@8c $ lb; rough 5½@6c $ lb.

Groceries.

The grocery trade continues rather slow and prices are not quotably altered. Coffee is showing more firmness, and some roasters talk of a fractional advance, but no quotable change has been made as yet. Sugar remains steady at the quotations of Monday. New Orleans molasses is rather easy, and while quotations are unch

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1876.

THE foreign exports from Philadelphia last week, amounted to $1,812,383.

A GREAT deal has lately been said on the purity of the ballot box, though but little has been done to purify it. And the fault lays at the door of "respectability and intelligence."

A PROMINENT iron manufacturer writes to the *Iron Age* that since we cannot expect sufficient railway demand before 1880 to utilize our present capacity of production, and since new iron districts will before that time add considerable to the supply, the true basis of future prosperity for our iron and steel industries is, in his judgment, the cultivation of the export movement in Bessemer rails and mild tempered steel.

THE Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association endeavored the past season to obtain full and correct statistics respecting the status of the dairy, with the following result; Crawford county has sixty-eight factories, producing 6,810,000 pounds of cheese; Erie county, twenty-two factories and 2,610,000 pounds; Mercer and Venango counties, eleven factories and 647,700 pounds; making a total of 101 factories, producing 9,557,700 pounds of cheese. Nine-tenths of these factories manufacture strictly full milk cheese.

THERE would seem to be absolutely no limit to the damnable dumbfoundness of the Louisiana "bulldozers." The colored woman ELIZA PINKSTON, whose harrowing story before the Canvassing Board sent a thrill of horror throughout the entire North, was on Tuesday night visited at her place of sojourn by three Democrats, one of whom she declares by name to be one of the scoundrels who so brutally assaulted her in Ouachita. He drew a pistol on her as she lay prostrate, when she leaped from her bed and fled through a door down stairs. The evident object was to kidnap her and CORA WILLIAMS, also a Republican witness. She shrieked and the villain fled before the police arrived. The United States Marshal drove at eleven o'clock at night to the house and posted guards. The piteous tale of this poor woman's wrongs is enough to move a heart of stone.

THERE are flattering prospects of an other important branch of commerce being rapidly developed between Philadelphia and Liverpool. The American line of steamships has recently fitted up compartments in all its steamers for carrying carcasses of beef from this side of the Atlantic to Great Britain, and to thus establish a regular traffic for its line. For the past few weeks it has been taking out weekly on an average some five hundred carcasses, or two thousand quarters of heavy beef for the English markets. These are from the largest and fattest cattle in market, and the trade seems destined to increase, during the winter months, at least. The new line will take out next Saturday sixty head of live beeves, the best in market, to place on the British markets for the holidays. These steamers have been in the Montreal trade, are fitted for the transportation of live cattle, and hence a trade with Liverpool in live stock is looked for on this new line, which, with that in dressed beef by the American line, will add much to the traffic of both.

THE sanitary statistics of New York city show that there have been two hundred and sixty-eight deaths from diphtheria, in that city, during the three months ending November 25th. The total number of cases was 547, so that over fifty per cent. proved fatal. In the corresponding period last year there were 1,101 cases and 580 deaths. A disease so mysterious in its operations and so fatal in its results, cannot fail to fill the mind with alarm wherever it may be developed. It is confined to no section or climate, but is liable to increase in cold or stormy weather. The fact that there is no approved method of treating it, shows that the medical fraternity do not fully understand its operations. Experience indicates that the disease is not epidemic, but is contagious; that it may be developed suddenly and alarmingly, or make its approaches by slow degrees. Until the disease is more fully understood, it must continue to be dreaded equally with the small-pox or the cholera. As prevention is always better than cure, what is most desirable in this case is some knowledge as to the incipient causes of the disease, so that the physical system can be guarded against its attacks. Whoever can furnish this information will place his name on the list of public benefactors.

THE Chief of the Bureau of Statistics has prepared a report calling the attention of Congress to the difficulty of obtaining correct returns of our exports to Canada, and the necessity of speedy legislation on the matter. It appears that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, the amount of exports not returned at the bureau reached the sum of $10,507,563, as against $15,526,524 in 1875, and $11,424,566 in 1874. An act passed February 10, 1820, provides that every vessel shall have a bill of lading showing the kind, amount and value of the cargo. As there were no railroad cars in 1820, the act only extended to vessels, and not to cars and other land vehicles. All exports of which full returns are not made cross the Northern border into the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, at St. Albans and Island Pond, Vt., and Niagara Falls, This defect in the returns is attributable to the neglect of shippers and consigners to give information of the quantity, kind and worth of articles shipped for export to Canada, to the officers of the transportation companies. Of our iron and steel manufactures, one of our most prominent interests, exports to the amount of $2,223,947 passed over the border last year, while those of manufactured woolens reach $349,439, and this is said to be but a meager percentage of the articles of which we have no adequate returns. The whole business is apparently a farce and a disgrace to the nation, and Congress should give early and careful attention to the subject.

IT SEEMS that a baker's dozen of New Orleans clergymen and bank presidents have united in a declaration that "it is their deliberate conviction that Louisiana is as loyal to the Union as any State within it." These rhetorical asseverators did not state what has been the social position of General LONGSTREET in that city since he "accepted the situation" and a Federal office there. Do these pious and loyal patriots themselves honor and sustain him as they did while he was a rebel? Would it not be well for them to explain his notorious social ostracism and disgrace among his former associates upon something consistent with the above gauzy assertions? They further assert that—

They know that large numbers of colored voters changed their political associations, under the growing conviction that the interests of the black man and the white in Louisiana are identical; that the burdens of misgovernment must fall on all classes, and finally most heavily on the laboring classes; and especially were they moved to such change by the embezzlement, by those in power, of the public funds appropriated to the education of their children.

As a commentary on the above, a correspondent of the New York *Times* adduces the following evidence as to the persistence of the negroes in Georgia in their political convictions in precincts where they were allowed to vote:

The Macon (Ga.) *Telegraph and Messenger*, a Democratic paper, prints conspicuously a communication in which the writer says: "Our popular fellow citizen, Colonel Thomas Hardeman, was applauded to the very echo on the night of the 7th inst., when he boldly declared that though in the past he had talked, written and spoken in behalf of our public schools—after the day's exhibition of the negro's continued enmity to the white race, voting solidly against their best and truest interests, eagerly following the suggestions of the bitterest foes of him and his people —so help him God, he would never again use his voice to urge the appropriation of white people's money to educate their most inflexible and determined enemies."

It is respectfully suggested that the aforesaid pious and veracious witnesses should explain why the blacks in Georgia should be "voting solidly" against the white Democracy and those in Louisiana should in "large numbers" be changing their former political convictions. And while they are on this subject they might explain also the remarkable anxiety of the Louisiana white Democrats for negro education, and the apparent prejudice of those in Georgia against it.

THE horrible story detailed by Mrs. PINKSTON, before the Louisiana Returning Board, is being rung into the ears of the nation, as it could not have been under any other circumstances. The eyes of the whole country are fixed upon the doings of that board; men of acknowledged ability and high reputation, representing both political parties, are present to witness what transpires; and the testimony is taken under those rules of evidence by which the credibility of witnesses may be put to the severest test. But there is really nothing new in Mrs. PINKSTON'S story, appalling as are the facts which she recites. Her case is but one of many, equally atrocious and horrible, which have been brought to the notice of the public, in various ways, during the past few years. Mississipi, Alabama and South Carolina, each have furnished many parallel cases. The country was not stirred by them as it should have been, because they were vehemently denied by the entire Democratic press and people of the South, and sneeringly alluded to as "campaign lies." These denials were echoed by the Northern Democratic press and people, and the statements characterized as "manufactured" for political effect. In this way, many intelligent men of both parties have doubtless been deceived as to the true state of facts. In the case of Mrs. PINKSTON, however, the two parties have, as it were, been brought face to face with the facts, and the witnesses have the whole reading public for an audience. The Louisiana Returning Board have been charged with many grave offenses, but the Democratic party has not yet accused them of "manufacturing" Southern outrages. It is admitted that there is such a woman as Mrs. PINKSTON, because she presented her scarred and hacked body before the board—and the marks made by the pistol, the knife and the ax, shocking as they were, did not indicate the full measure of brutality inflicted upon this defenseless woman. Her husband had been slain and his body shamefully mutilated in her sight; but that did not suffice. The killing of a "Radical" voter—or, as his murderers expressed it, sending him to hell to vote—was not so uncommon or dreadful a crime as should satiate a well armed and well mounted "TILDEN, HENDRICKS and Reform" club. The horrified woman, with her babe clasped instinctively to her breast, did not seem to comprehend all that was implied in the command, "Put your baby down." Her reply was: "O no, sir. What do you want to kill me for? I'm nothing but a woman." As if she had said: "You have killed my husband for not voting as you desired; but why should you kill me? I have no vote." She held on to the child until its throat was cut, and then the terrible struggle began—the unequal struggle of a defenseless woman against a score of fiendish men. The demon lust completed the hellish work; and the woman, by a sort of miracle, survived to tell the tale, and to proclaim to the world some of the means employed to carry the State of Louisiana for TILDEN. Frauds, ballot-box stuffing, repeating and like devices, sink into insignificance compared with the more modern method of "bulldozing." The loss of New York, or Connecticut, or Indiana, or all three combined, through the usual modes of cheating so well understood and so deterously practiced by the Democratic party, is not so fraught with danger to the country and its free institutions, as is the "bulldozing" of a single parish. A party may survive the loss of a State, many times; but what party—nay, what country—can long survive the perpetration of such outrages as those connected with the murder of BEN. JAMES and poor PINKSTON? Well might ex-Governor PALMER, of Illinois, exclaim: "This question is broader now than President-making—it is one of humanity." And well might General SMITH join in the indignation against the Southern Democrats, and say: "You have deceived us." Ah! they have not only deceived the honest masses of their own party in the North, but, in trying to hide the horrors of their canvass, have deceived the whole country. The attempt made to break the force of Mrs. PINKSTON'S testimony has thus far signally failed; and the theory advanced, that her husband had been murdered by a colored man with whom he had had a previous quarrel, is wholly discredited by impartial judges. As the New York *Times* very pertinently remarks:

Had these things occurred in a remote province of Turkey, Europe would have closed ears and eyes, and humanity would have shouted as loudly as Englishmen for the punishment of all concerned. The Bashi-Bazouks, however, have done nothing more horrible than has been done by the Democrats of Louisiana. The cry for the destruction of Turkish authority has gone up from both continents as a result of the atrocities committed by its irregular soldiery. The Louisiana Democrats, on the extreme of open resistance to national authority, which means another civil war and another attempt to destroy the American Republic.

THE attention of those who are interested in the counting of the Presidential electoral vote is opportunely called by a correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* to the resolution on that subject passed by the convention of 1787 on the very day of the adoption of the Constitution. This resolution, or "unanimous order of the convention," as it is called, in making provision for the proper ascertainment and certification of the first electoral vote for President and Vice President, ordered that the Senators should appoint a President of the Senate for the sole purpose of receiving, opening and *counting* the votes for President. The only office of the Senate and House of Representatives in that respect was to serve as witnesses of the count. That this was the understanding at that time is confirmed by many other circumstances. The different practice of counting by tellers grew up later, not on account of any constitutional difficulty, but as a matter of convenience:

The Constitution closes as follows: "Done in convention, by the unanimous consent of the States present, the 17th day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven." Signed by "George Washington, President and Deputy from Virginia," and by the Deputies from twelve of the thirteen original States. Immediately after signing the Constitution, on the very same day, the convention passed the following resolve, which was trans-mitted to the "United States, in Congress assembled," with the Constitution:

IN CONVENTION,
MONDAY, September 17, 1787.
Present,

The States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Mr. Hamilton, from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Resolved, That the preceding Constitution be laid before the United States in Congress assembled;

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this convention that as soon as the convention of nine States shall have ratified the Constitution, the United States in Congress assembled should fix a day on which the electors should be appointed by the States which shall have ratified the same, and a day on which the electors should assemble to vote for the President, and the time and place for commencing proceedings under this Constitution; that, after such publication, the electors should be appointed, and the Senators and Representatives elected; that the electors should meet on the day fixed for the election of the President, and should transmit their votes, certified, signed, sealed and directed as the Constitution requires, to the Secretary of the United States in Congress assembled; that the Senators and Representatives should convene at the time and place assigned; that the Senators should appoint a President of the Senate, for the sole purpose of receiving, opening and counting the votes for President; and that after he shall be chosen, the Congress, together with the President, should without delay proceed to execute this Constitution.

By the unanimous order of the convention.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President.
WILLIAM JACKSON, Secretary.

It thus appears, from the formal and unanimous resolve of the convention which framed our Constitution and presented it to the people of the United States for their acceptance and ratification—a convention representing all the original States except Rhode Island—that "the Senators and Representatives should convene at the time and place assigned; that the Senate should appoint a *President of the Senate for the sole purpose of receiving, opening and counting the votes for President.*"

Of course, as the correspondent points out, the Senate could only appoint a President of the Senate *pro tempore*, as the Constitution provided that the Vice President should be *ex-officio* President of the Senate and, until the electoral votes had been counted, no one could be declared elected President or Vice President.

The above resolve, transmitted to the President of the Continental Congress with the Constitution, clearly shows that *it was the intention of* WASHINGTON *and the other framers of the Constitution that the President of the Senate should count the electoral vote*, and it may, therefore, be fairly considered as supplementary to and explanatory of the meaning and intent of that part of our Constitution.

A GREAT politico-economic revolution has lately taken place in Germany. Nearly the entire free trade press of that country has sounded the retreat, and ten of the very foremost journals of the Empire figure in the list of converts. The facts touching this important change, as set forth in an interesting article in the Chicago *Journal*, translated from the *Staats-Zeitung*, of that city, show it to be perhaps the most remarkable new departure in the science of political economy which has occurred in several years. Germany has heretofore been properly classed among the free trade nations. Not only do the tariff laws of the Government lean that way, but, what is more, the force of public opinion has been upon that side. It had come to be assumed among the economists and publicists that the question was settled. The position taken was that the proposition, free trade is the best system, was an axiom; if not in itself a self-evident proposition, that it had been demonstrated so plainly as to be no longer open to disputation. "This," they would say, "every educated man must concede." But that arrogance has now been rebuked and effectually destroyed, and radical changes in the tariff laws of the Empire are in contemplation. It appears that the revolution owes its origin to the American Centennial. Herr REULEAUX, the German Commissioner at the Philadelphia Exposition, set forth the facts which were the seed of these new thoughts. Says the *Staats-Zeitung*:

Although within the last few years, in consequence of the financial crisis, the belief in the infallibility of the English doctrine of free trade, advocated by the so-called Liberals, had become somewhat shaken, the violent outbreak of the discontent with this doctrine is due alone to the observations made in Philadelphia. The reports of Mr. Reuleaux destroyed with one stroke the course tissue of fallacies and falsehoods with which the thoughtless masses of Germany, swearing upon the empty name of free trade, have been hoodwinked.

As if by a stroke of lightning this mental cloudiness has been dispelled and the discoveries made at the Philadelphia Exposition. Not only the letters of Reuleaux, but also these of a considerable number of experts and educated laymen, have opened the eyes of the people in Germany. And now a good many clamor just as thoughtlessly and inconsiderately for a protective tariff, without bearing in mind that the question of free trade or tariff is not to be answered for all the nations and countries in the same way, but it is to be solved according to the peculiar relations and conditions of labor prevailing in each. What may not only be useful, but an actual condition of life for one people, may be exceedingly pernicious for another and *vice versa*.

This is sensible enough. The time when free trade means protection has not, however, yet arrived for this country; nor, in spite of the efforts of the Democratic party, do we apprehend that any serious change will take place in our tariff system until it is actually demanded by the industry of the country. Meanwhile this radical change of front in Germany cannot fail to greatly strengthen Republican ideas of political economy in the United States.

During nine months of the present year we have shipped to Europe $97,462,930 worth of breadstuffs—an increase of almost $14,000,000 over the same months of the previous year. In the single article of illuminating oil we have made a gain of almost $6,000,000 over last year, having already exported $27,719,658 worth. Of bacon, hams and lard we have shipped $54,194,538 worth—a gain over the same period last year of more than $13,000,000. Our exports of leaf tobacco have amounted to $26,028,473, almost double that of last year.

A successful case of transfusion of blood was performed at Lacon, Illinois, recently, by Dr. Reeder, of that place. It is the second operation of the kind ever attempted in the West, and the first that has proved successful. Fourteen ounces of blood taken from the arm of Mrs. Stine was transfused to the veins of Mrs. George Bane, the patient's pulse falling in two days from 110 to 90. The lady, whose life was despaired of, is now believed to be in a fair way of recovery.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

The Holiday Season—Christmas Gifts—Winter Fashions in Fleeces and Furs—Damasse Robes, Toques and Evening Dresses a la Josephine.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

NEW YORK, November 29, 1876.

New York has put on its holiday attire: the leaves may have left the trees, and the grass grown scant and dry, but the sidewalks crowded with well dressed women, the streets with handsome equipages, the shops with beautiful holiday wares and every corner glowing with roses and violets set in a frame of ivies and ferns make up a bright and attractive picture, to which the crispair and winter sunshine or snow lends an added radiance. Inducements to spend money are usually varied this season, enormous quantities of goods having been brought on to New York from the Philadelphia Exhibition, and either placed on sale or sent to the auction rooms, where they are submitted to public inspection for a few days and then sold for what they will bring. Wherever there are great warerooms empty in the principal thoroughfares they are employed for this purpose, and it is a favorite occupation with persons of leisure and means to spend their mornings feasting their eyes on the rare old china, books, prints, Turkish and Eastern embroidered stuffs, occasionally making an acquisition at low auction prices, which will doubtless figure in many cases as an elegant Christmas gift. In addition to these there are the display of the regular importing houses, and the smaller but more tasteful exhibition of the retail stores, including the confectioners with their decorated plum pudding and bon bons, and the florists, where mounds of tube roses are contrasted with huge boquets of red Provence roses, and both together exhale a fragrance which seems summer concentrated in one exquisite breath.

What, delights indeed exists for those who possess the means to obtain, or the tasts to enjoy them! All the arts, all the genius, all the skill, all the industry of the world, are leaved under by some new, something new, something beautiful, something odd, something finer than we have had before. Hand work has the preference in every department. The Eastlake mania has given color to the fancy to modern art and threatens to revolutionize modern workmanship. If it only could! If we only had fewer things and better! Must we be forever changing and replacing to the detriment of character, as well as the destruction of comfort?

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

I have remarked that hand work has the preference in all articles of luxury, and many of those for use. For years past the prestige acquired by hand work in wood has been growing and receiving constant increasing attention by the purchasers and enthusiasm of travelers from abroad, and the fashionable mania for wood carving at home. The immense number of purposes to which pretty articles in wood can be put, the great variety and extreme availability of the material, give it the facility to more or less beauty of finish, are reasons enough why it should be industriously applied to holiday uses. Some holiday exhibitions seem to be composed of nothing but wood. There are all sorts of carved frames and brackets, music holders and letter holders; there are carved bread trays and cheese plates, paper cutters and salad knives and forks from the Rigi district, polished in the form of alpstocks, and pocket whistles like small hoofs, both covered with natural goat's hair. Then there are fruit dishes and ornamental pieces carved out of a single piece of oak, in leaf and vine and fruit patterns, and Swiss clocks in the form of old mills, dilapidated watch towers and the like.

The newest and quaintest articles, however, are executed in rustic wood work, and represent woods, half cut and quarter cords of wood, cut and piled, the grain showing through the smooth, clean surface upon the ends, the bark at the sides, and moss sticking to it here and there. The interiors are hollowed out and used for bon bons, and afterward for matches or cigars. Sometimes the wood pile will have a wood cutter mounted upon the lid, or the man will form the principal figure, and be carrying his faggot, his game, or his wares upon his back. These original cigar holders are perfect *fac similes* of worn out leather shoes and the prettiest inkstands a dainty boot, with a covered cut glass holder set in the top.

The holidays will also come to us from Paris are more showy, and more in the form of articles of personal use and adornment. Marvellous things are gotten up in the way of fine china, decorated glass and pearl ornamented toilet sets. Small mirrors are set in frames formed of shells of pearl, with twisted silver mounting, the branches holding perfume bottles and powder box of engraved glass. Others have frames of delicate painted china with gold mounts, bottles and box to match. Black, cream or turquoise blue is used for the base, upon which are minute Watteau figures, and the interiors are painted with admirable fineness and delicacy.

Fancy new and rich jewelry shows the same devices, upon the same grounds. The fashionable articles consist of a watch suspended by a chatelaine, a pendant for the neck, earrings and bracelet. The paintings are inclosed in knife settings of gold, with brilliants to form the design, and small round pearls set like nails at the corners. Gilt rings are formed like bracelets of several rows of pearls, with a ruby or emerald, and diamonds in the center, or rather in the top, for a fashionable ring now reaches quite to the first joint. Steel purses with "snap" tops for holding silver are among the new things, and the pretty nice work baskets have expanded into wall baskets and scrap baskets, ornamented with ribbons, with branches of flowers and all sorts of odd thing in applique, of red, and green, and black material. But fans are perhaps the objects toward which the most longing eyes are cast, for they are new to the majority and very beautiful. The fashionable fans are of feathers; of course, anything rare or quaint or old, is better than merely fashionable, but the term is used to designate the prevailing style in contradistinction to the style which preceded it. For example, fine paintings upon silk or satin were predominant a few years ago, and they are still to be seen, some of them having had a fringe of peacock's feathers added to the top, but unless the painting is exceptionally fine, they are less distinguished than the fans made entirely of feathers (with the exception of the sticks), of ostrich feathers, white, black or natural grey.

There are black and white cock's feather fans, with peacock tips, or fringe of ostrich, forming the top; both these are exceedingly stylish, though some of them are very beautiful also. Of course much of the cost depends upon the sticks, their workmanship and the material of which they are composed. Pearl sticks are considered less desirable than ivory, partly because they are brittle and break so easily. Dark shell are preferred, carved ivory for white fans and ebony for black.

A REVOLUTION IN STATIONERY.

Some experiments in ink have recently been made, which promise to create a diversion, if not effect a revolution in fashions in stationery.

A white ink, a silver ink and a gold ink have long been considered a great desideratum in writing fluids. The first of these has at length been obtained in perfection. It flows freely, makes a straight hair line and dries quickly. This suggests, indeed it demands, dark colored papers, and several different kinds have therefore been prepared, one consisting of solid cardinal red, another of solid brown, another of navy blue, or rather "ink" blue and a fourth of the dark colors assorted. The novelty of the combination will be likely to strike young folks especially, and inspire them with a desire to "try" the effect. Dark looking missives may shortly be expected, therefore, to begin their flight through the postoffice, and nervous ladies need not take it for granted on receiving a sad looking blue-black or brown communication that they have lost all their friends at one fell swoop. It may be remarked *en passant* that assorted stationery makes one of the simplest and most welcome of Christmas gifts, and some very pretty new packages have been gotten out with special reference to the holiday demand. Of course the most elegant has the monogram made on purpose, and stamped on selected paper, but common people are very pleased to receive a package of note containing several quires of fine paper of assorted tints with envelopes to match, or a "Graphic" box, prettily stamped and perfumed, or a box with a pocket in the cover containing a pretty bottle of perfume.

The square paper folded once, and inclosed in a long envelope, seems to be the favorite and most fashionable style, both in light and dark papers.

FLEECES AND FURS.

Of late years our winter has a fashion of beginning as late as our summer, disappointing the hopes and expectations of dealers who have built their castles in a cold season and a brisk trade, for it is very well-known that if cold weather sets in early, twice the business is done as if it begins late, no matter how severe it may be afterwards.

The fashions and fabrics of the season are very well designed for the severity of a rigorous winter. We have woolen fabrics for dresses, we have cloaks of soft, thick armure and fleece lined cloth which reach nearly to the bottom of the dress, and are trimmed with fur besides. We have fur hats, and bonnets, and bonnets made or trimmed with feathers, so that nothing of the foundation is visible, and we have in addition, garments of quilted down, in which one may be encased, as a diagon in straw, and warranted to keep until spring.

The greatest novelty in winter fabrics are the fleece-lined silks and camel's hair cloths; the former brocaded in small armure patterns, the latter having a rough and hairy surface, but being also delightfully soft and warm. The cost does not seem to be greater than heavy unlined silk and woolen cloakings usually are, while the advantage in warmth, convenience and lightness is undeniable. They seem, indeed, to realize the ideal of a winter fabric warmth without weight. A disadvantage under which the effort to reestablish cloaks labors is the fact that no single design obtains prominence, and the infinite variety enables ladies to have them or do without, as they please. Times being hard, many decide to do without, at least while the mild weather continues, and, therefore, more square and striped India shawls appear upon the promenade than have been seen for many years, the young girls adding jackets in suits to their costumes, and finding these all that is required, until snow brings out furs, and suggests a necessity for heavier wrapping. Had a cloak, instead of an array of cloaks of all shapes and sizes, made its appearance, every woman would have had one; as it is, the difference between an old dolman and some of the new cloaks is slight that the majority stick to their old dolmans, if they do not revive antiquity in the shape of a shawl. For the rest, the woman of society has really very little use for a cloak; it would only cover up her exquisite costume which she wants to display. Fashionable cloaks, therefore, must continue to take the form of wraps, until we come back to perfectly plain skirts.

Occasionally even this desideratum, if it be one, seems to have been reached, but of that more anon. Will the seal or the fox be left upon the face of the earth after this winter? One would think not, if one might judge by the monopoly which these furs have claimed, and the scarcity of the demand. The fox is known to be sly, however, and, "silver" fox or "grey" fox, it is a question if all is even fox that claims to be. As to the seal, poor animal, all the seals in the world would not furnish skins enough to clothe the number of American women who are robed thus royally.

"Grey otter and black lynx," silver pointed, have some admirers and look especially well with navy blue costumes; but the fashionable fur for the winter, distinguished par excellence, is the Russian sable, and the fashionable mania for wood carving at home. The immense number of purposes to which pretty articles in wood can be put, the great variety and extreme availability of the material, give it the facility to more or less beauty of finish, are reasons enough why it should be industriously applied to holiday uses. Some holiday exhibitions seem to be composed of nothing but wood. There are all sorts of carved frames and brackets, music holders and letter holders; there are carved bread trays and cheese plates, paper cutters and salad knives and forks from the Rigi district, polished in the form of alpstocks, and pocket whistles like small hoofs, both covered with natural goat's hair. Then there are fruit dishes and ornamental pieces carved out of a single piece of oak, in leaf and vine and fruit patterns, and Swiss clocks in the form of old mills, dilapidated watch towers and the like.

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Of late years our winter has a fashion of beginning as late as our summer, disappointing the hopes and expectations of dealers who have built their castles in a cold season and a brisk trade, for it is very well-known that if cold weather sets in early, twice the business is done as if it begins late, no matter how severe it may be afterwards.

The fashions and fabrics of the season are very well designed for the severity of a rigorous winter. We have woolen fabrics for dresses, we have cloaks of soft, thick armure and fleece lined cloth which reach nearly to the bottom of the dress, and are trimmed with fur besides. We have fur hats, and bonnets, and bonnets made or trimmed with feathers, so that nothing of the foundation is visible, and we have in addition, garments of quilted down, in which one may be encased, as a diagon in straw, and warranted to keep until spring.

The greatest novelty in winter fabrics are the fleece-lined silks and camel's hair cloths; the former brocaded in small armure patterns, the latter having a rough and hairy surface, but being also delightfully soft and warm. The cost does not seem to be greater than heavy unlined silk and woolen cloakings usually are, while the advantage in warmth, convenience and lightness is undeniable. They seem, indeed, to realize the ideal of a winter fabric warmth without weight. A disadvantage under which the effort to reestablish cloaks labors is the fact that no single design obtains prominence, and the infinite variety enables ladies to have them or do without, as they please. Times being hard, many decide to do without, at least while the mild weather continues, and, therefore, more square and striped India shawls appear upon the promenade than have been seen for many years, the young girls adding jackets in suits to their costumes, and finding these all that is required, until snow brings out furs, and suggests a necessity for heavier wrapping. Had a cloak, instead of an array of cloaks of all shapes and sizes, made its appearance, every woman would have had one; as it is, the difference between an old dolman and some of the new cloaks is slight that the majority stick to their old dolmans, if they do not revive antiquity in the shape of a shawl. For the rest, the woman of society has really very little use for a cloak; it would only cover up her exquisite costume which she wants to display. Fashionable cloaks, therefore, must continue to take the form of wraps, until we come back to perfectly plain skirts.

Occasionally even this desideratum, if it be one, seems to have been reached, but of that more anon. Will the seal or the fox be left upon the face of the earth after this winter? One would think not, if one might judge by the monopoly which these furs have claimed, and the scarcity of the demand. The fox is known to be sly, however, and, "silver" fox or "grey" fox, it is a question if all is even fox that claims to be. As to the seal, poor animal, all the seals in the world would not furnish skins enough to clothe the number of American women who are robed thus royally.

"Grey otter and black lynx," silver pointed, have some admirers and look especially well with navy blue costumes; but the fashionable fur for the winter, distinguished par excellence, is the Russian sable, and these also are matched by small serviettes. These darkly brilliant cloths are also used for dessert, and will doubtless give some impetus to the more elegant of the New Year's tables. They set crystal, fine china and handsome silverware to great advantage, and harmonize with the new decorated candles, which show a solid center of color, bronze, chinese or brown, upon which Greek borders and curious geometrical figures are traced in gold, black or crimson lines. Candles and candlesticks are a great feature of drawing-room decoration, and some of them are wonderfully artistic and beautiful. With the wood fires, and the andirons, the tiles and the panels, they revive the interiors of a hundred and fifty years ago, as we are endeavoring to revive the old styles in dress.

JENNIE JUNE.

TOQUES.

The toque is the winter hat, or bonnet, PAR EXCELLENCE, at least for full dress and evening wear. It has a straight pleated cap crown, and a brim which sets close to the head. It is made of all velvet, or silk of silk and velvet, and fur. The most definite and distinctive styles were placed on private exhibition a few days ago by A. T. Stewart & Co. For evening wear was a toque of velvet, trimmed with a band of white satin, a Prince of Wales plume of three curled white ostrich feathers, held by a silver and pearl buckle, and a white and blush rose placed under a narrow puffing of pale pinky grey velvet and white lace which bordered the brim. A black velvet toque matched it exactly, except that the roses were lemon color, the puffing pale blue and the clasp black enamel, with fine lines of gilt. Another was of seal brown silk, with brim of seal fur, and ornaments consisting of wreath of brown velvet leaves, a cap of Valenciennes lace and cluster of Provence and tea roses. The furry hats, which are made in many shapes and artistic society. They always have been popular among women journalists and lady artist, who live in "rooms" and studios, and fraternize in a manner which is at once free without undue license and easy without vulgarity. The gift of a box of grapes from a friend in the country, of a bottle of olives, or a few boxes of sardines, from some one aware of a weakness for these delicacies forms the basis for an impromptu lunch, after a semi Bohemian fashion, which is thoroughly enjoyed at least. Ladies' club lunches are different from this, and "society" lunches differ still more widely. When ladies in society give a lunch it is usually to introduce a bride, or a new arrival into the charmed precincts of "our" circle.

The number invited does not consist of more than twelve, and it is characterized by a certain formality which is not broken until the Young Hyson, the delicate *Cliequot* or *Roederer* begins to circulate, for all have the same effect so far as supplying a gentle stimulent which unlock the tongue is concerned. Not that I would be understood as intimating that women in society have habits of drinking wine, or doing anything else that is injurious more than other women. On the contrary, I know many that seeing it constantly, never touch it, and others who will not allow alcoholic liquors in any form to appear on their tables. Many stories have been told in regard to the habits of New York women, in and out of society, but I have never known, myself, a single case of the kind to occur. But to return to our lunch and its ceremonial. A novelty in fashion for these occasions consists of solid cardinal red table cloth, with doyleys to match. Besides the all red, there are red with a Greek pattern in black, or white forming a border, and these also are matched by small serviettes. These darkly brilliant cloths are also used for dessert, and will doubtless give some impetus to the more elegant of the New Year's tables. They set crystal, fine china and handsome silverware to great advantage, and harmonize with the new decorated candles, which show a solid center of color, bronze, chinese or brown, upon which Greek borders and curious geometrical figures are traced in gold, black or crimson lines. Candles and candlesticks are a great feature of drawing-room decoration, and some of them are wonderfully artistic and beautiful. With the wood fires, and the andirons, the tiles and the panels, they revive the interiors of a hundred and fifty years ago, as we are endeavoring to revive the old styles in dress.

JENNIE JUNE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The opening of the session was witnessed by an immense concourse of spectators. There were very few members absent. The Speaker's chair was draped in mourning in respect to the memory of the late Speaker Kerr. There being, therefore, no presiding officer, the House was called to order by at noon by Clerk Adams, who thereupon called the roll of members.

The call showed 249 members present, the whole number on the roll being 288. As soon as the call was finished, Mr. Holman rose to offer a resolution for the election of Speaker, but Mr. Banks interposed, as a question of superior privilege, the right of the member elect from Colorado to have his name placed on the roll so he might participate in the election of Speaker, and sent up the credentials of the Colorado member.

A discussion ensued on the question of precedence, Mr. Holman and other Democrats contending that the organization of the House was necessarily the first business in order, while Mr. Banks and other Republicans contended that all the members had a right to participate in the election. Mr. Frye claimed the same right for his colleague, elected in the place of Mr. Blaine. Finally the Clerk decided that the resolution offered by Mr. Holman took the precedence. From that decision an appeal was taken by Mr. Banks, which appeal Mr. Cox moved to lay on the table. Agreed to, yeas 158, nays 84.

Mr. Holman's resolution then came up for action, and it was adopted without opposition. It was as follows:

The House being informed that since its last adjournment, M. C. Kerr, who at the commencement of the present Congress was elected Speaker of the House, had departed this life, creating a vacancy in the office of Speaker, it is therefore ordered that the House do now proceed to the election of a Speaker *viva voce*.

Samuel J. Randall was nominated by Mr. Cox, and James A. Garfield by Mr. McCrary. Messer. Clymer, Banning, Banks, of Massachusetts, and Wilson, of Iowa, were appointed tellers. The vote resulted as follows:

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